

Portishead Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937

To the Chairman and Members of the Portishead Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1937, to be able, once again, to say that the general health of the district has been excellent.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	976 acres
Population	...	...	...	3,808
Houses Inhabited	...	...	...	938 (estimate)
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£29,831
Penny Rate	...	...	...	£113 10s.

2 BIRTH and DEATH RATE

BIRTH RATE	...	10	England and Wales	...	14.9
DEATH RATE	...	8.3	England and Wales (Smaller Towns)	...	11.9

The Death Rate again shows a decrease and is now 3 per 1,000 lower than the General Death Rate.

3 INFANTILE and MATERNAL MORTALITY

Infants under one year.—Total Deaths, Two. Maternal Mortality, Nil.

4 NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total cases notified				Deaths
Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	5	...	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2	...	Nil

There was no Influenza epidemic during the year. In the last quarter, there was a mild epidemic of Measles. Immunization against Diphtheria is available. From reports of large numbers done this seems to give good protection against Diphtheria.

5 TUBERCULOSIS

	Total cases notified				Deaths
Respiratory	...	...	3	...	4
Non-Respiratory	...	...	Nil	...	Nil

These figures again show a decrease of notifications on last year. The Tuberculosis Care Committee has done excellent work in assisting many cases.

6 NURSING

The Nursing Association has become affiliated to the Somerset County Nursing Association. This appears to be working very well. The district has the services of two excellent nurses who also help districts outside the Urban District Council. The society is supported chiefly by voluntary contributions.

7 MATERNAL and INFANT WELFARE

There is now no Maternity Home in the District. The Nursing Association provides the services of two fully trained midwives. A County Scheme for Ante-Natal and Post Natal Attention comes into force in 1938.

The Infant Welfare Centre meets on alternate Fridays through the year. This centre is self-supporting—though admission is free. Lectures, and all activities dealing with infant welfare, are dealt with. The attendance of Mothers and Babies has been excellent.

8 WATER SUPPLY

It is satisfactory. Bacteriological examination show no contamination. Arrangements for regular periodical examinations have been made.

9 HOSPITALS

The Scheme for Isolation accommodation is being dealt with. General cases for Hospital still have to go to Bristol.

10 MILK SUPPLY

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	...	10
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—					
(a) Distributors only	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Distributors who are also Producers	...	...	...	...	4
(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers)					
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	2
1 Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk					
1 Licence to sell Accredited Milk					

11 MEAT SUPERVISION

Slaughter-houses	...	...	Licenced 2	Registered 2	Total 4
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12 HOUSING

(As required by the Ministry of Health)

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:—

(i) By Local Authority, with State Assistance					
(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Other	...	...	...	...	Nil
Without State Assistance	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons					
(a) With State Assistance	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Without State Assistance	...	...	...	...	12

HOUSING INSPECTIONS:—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	4
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925					Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	Nil
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					1

HOUSING ACTION:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	1
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	36
2 Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					
a By Owners	...	...	...	...	30
b By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil
2 Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—					
a By Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
b By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Acts, 1936:—

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made					Nil
2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders					Nil
3 Clearance Orders made	...	...	...	...	Nil
4 Clearance Orders confirmed	...	...	...	...	Nil
(a) Number of houses involved	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING—

a (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	2
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	14½
b Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year					Nil
c (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year					1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	3½
d Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
e Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report					Nil

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

J. E. McCORMICK, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

M.O.H., Portishead Urban District Council.

June, 1938



PORTISHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary and Housing Inspector

For the Year Ended the 31st December, 1937.

TO THE

Chairman and Members of the Portishead Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

Bakeries

The Bakehouses in the District number three. None of these are underground Bakeries. All are kept in a cleanly condition, and the sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.

Cowsheds and Dairies

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been periodically inspected. The former number 11. These comply with the Council's Regulations as regards cleanliness, ventilation, drainage, and water supply. Pans and utensils receive careful attention.

Factories Workshops and Workplaces

There are four Factories, eleven Workshops, and four Workplaces in the District. As regards ventilation, cubic space and cleanliness, these are satisfactory.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1936

The requirements of the Order have been complied with. There are 14 Retail Purveyors of Milk on the Register, 10 Producers and 7 Dairymen. There is one accredited Producer, one accredited Purveyor, and one pasteurised Purveyor on the Register.

Slaughter Houses

There are four Slaughter-houses in the District. Two of these are registered, one is permanently licensed, and one annually licensed. These have been regularly inspected. Drainage, cleanliness, ventilation and water supply are satisfactory, and the interior surfaces are regularly whitewashed.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations

These inspections are carried out as instructed. In my opinion, the cattle and carcasses are of a high grade and healthy, and the meat of excellent quality. Cattle carcasses and meat are inspected by a veterinary surgeon, and reports are sent to the Council. Cattle are not kept in the Slaughter-house for a longer period than may be necessary for the purpose of preparing such cattle, by fasting and otherwise, for the process of slaughtering.

Storm and Surface Water Sewers

These sewers have been cleansed periodically, and together with the storm water overflows continue to act efficiently.

Housing

The estimated number of Houses in the District is 1020. Approximately 45 per cent of these fall within the limit of Rent applicable to the District under the Housing, etc., Acts.

Number of Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b), 12.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :

(1) By the Local Authority, Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons, Nil.

Housing (continued)

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1. Inspection—Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 2.
2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Houses (Inspection and District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, Nil.
3. Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, Nil.
4. Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 1.

(2) Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 1.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. 36.
2. Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—
 - (a) by Owners, 30.
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.
3. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close, Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, Nil.
2. Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice :—
 - (a) by Owners, Nil.
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13, 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.
2. Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.
3. Clearance Orders made, Nil.
4. Clearance Orders confirmed, Nil.
 - (a) Number of Houses involved, Nil.
 - (b) Number of Houses demolished, Nil.

D. Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936 :—Overcrowding

1. Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, 2.
2. Number of families dwelling therein, 2.
3. Number of Persons dwelling therein, $14\frac{1}{2}$.
4. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, Nil.
5.
 - (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 1.
 - (b) Number of persons concerned in such cases, $3\frac{1}{2}$.

Disinfection

After cases of Infectious Disease, premises are disinfected with Sulphur, Formalin Vapour or Izal Spray. There is no Steam Disinfector in the District. Bedding, etc., is sent to Bristol for disinfection, and every care is taken in packing and transit.

**House Refuse
Removal**

House Refuse, where not used by the occupiers on the garden, is stored— (1) in movable receptacles of galvanised iron, with proper covers: (2) in other removable receptacles of wood and iron, with and without covers, and there are a few fixed ashpits. The Refuse is collected once a week by the Council's Contractor, and is conveyed to a suitable tip outside the Urban District.

**Cleansing, Flushing,
etc.**

The Sewers are flushed by means of automatic flush tanks, and manholes fitted with hand disc valves, about twice a week during the summer and once a week during the winter months.

**Public Water
Supplies**

These show no evidence of contamination and from samples submitted to the County Analyst the results appear to be satisfactory.

**Sand Intercepting
Tanks**

These have been regularly cleared of deposit.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. Kelvin Smith

P.A.S.I., A.M.INST.M. & CY.E., M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Council Offices,

1. Burlington Place,

Portishead,

7th April, 1938.

